The Scroll of the Park Avenue Synagogue

Vol. IV, No. 4 December 8, 1941 — Kislev 18, 5702

BRANDEIS-USSISHKIN SERMON THEME; CHANUKAH SERVICE TO BE DEC. 19

On Friday evening, December 12, Rabbi Steinberg will evaluate the Jewish significance of two great Jewish personalities, Louis Dembitz Brandeis and Menachem Mendel Ussishkin, who departed this world in recent months. It is difficult to conceive two persons who in background and temperament were more radically different than the late Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and the late official head and guiding spirit of the Jewish National Fund in Palestine. And yet these two men so far apart in life situation and personality shared Jewish objectives and a Jewish program. What were the elements which they held in common, and how from such diverse points of departure did they arrive at identical conclusions? It is these questions which Rabbi Steinberg will answer in his sermon.

The Sabbath of Chanukah

The Friday evening of December 19 will be the Sabbath of Chanukah. In honor of the Festival of Lights Rabbi Steinberg will speak on "The Meaning of Chanukah for Our Time." Cantor Putterman and the choir will prepare a special musical service. The entire congregation is invited to participate in the worship in the light of the menorah.

The Friday evening of December 26 in accordance with our Synagogue practice is set apart for a special Youth Service which will be conducted by the members of the Junior League. Participating in the Service will be: Phyllis Brand, Jerome Horowitz, Josephine Levy and Alex Morse. Fuller details of the program for youth will be published in the next issue of The Scroll, but an early announcement is made so that families whose young people are away from home at college may be enabled to inform them in time of the special youth program to be held during the mid-winter vacation.

Service Music

The program of service music to be heard on the Friday evenings of December 12 and 19, will be as follows:

L'cho Dodi .....Kirschner
Tov L'hodos .....Schubert
Borchu .....Achron
Shma .....Achron
Mi Chomocho .....Kirschner
V'shomru .....Zilberts
Kaddish .....Gerovitch
May the Words.....Sulzer
Kiddush .....Lanandowski-Putterman
Vaanachnu .....Schlesinger

A special group of Chanukah selections will be sung at the services Friday, Dec. 19.

BOOKLET TO GUIDE CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

No festival in the Jewish calendar is more meaningful inherently and more lovely aesthetically than the Feast of Lights which commemorates the fateful struggle for political and religious liberty on the part of our ancient ancestors against the tyranny of the Syrian Empire. Every Jewish household should take proper cognizance of this festival, both for the sake of the adults and even more for the sake of the children.

To help you celebrate the festival there is enclosed with this issue of The Scroll a Chanukah booklet. In it you will find the outline of the service at the menorah and suggestions for making that service colorful and significant. The Sisterhood will also present boxes of Chanukah candles to the school children.

Menorahs Available

The Sisterhood is moreover receiving on consignment a supply of menorahs. These will be sold at cost to any member or friend of the congregation who requires one. Rabbi Steinberg urges every household affiliated with the Park Avenue Synagogue to make certain that it has a menorah which is aesthetically appealing. As Scripture long since indicated, the religious life strives not only for holiness but also for the *beauty* of holiness.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Will those members of the Synagogue who have in their families young men and women who are at college, either away from home or in the city, please communicate with Rabbi Steinberg, giving the addresses of these young people. Rabbi and Mrs. Steinberg plan to receive during the mid-winter vacation for the collegians of the congregation. They would like to communicate directly with the young people, extending an invitation to the reception and tea.

The Park Avenue Synagogue

50 East 87th Street, New York
SAcramento 2-8765

MILTON STEINBERG .....*Rabbi*
ERWIN ZIMET .....*Assistant Rabbi*
DAVID J. PUTTERMAN .....*Cantor*
ERWIN ZIMET ...*Principal, Religious School*

Officers

JACOB FRIEDMAN, JR.....*President*
CHARLES WEILL.....*First Vice-President*
MORRIS EDELMAN.....*Second Vice-President*
FREDERICK FINN.....*Chairman of Board*
MILTON WEILL.....*Vice-Chairman of Board*
ARTHUR OCHS .....*Treasurer*
ALBERT FISCH .....*Assistant Treasurer*
EMANUEL ROSENTHAL...*Executive Secretary*
MRS. FRED ABRAMS.....*Sisterhood President*
M. D. MILLHEISER.....*Sexton*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, December 9
First Aid Class—11 A.M.

Wednesday, December 10
Women's Hebrew Class—11 A.M.

Thursday, December 11
Meeting of Committee on Adult Education—8:15 P.M.

Friday, December 12
First Aid Class—11 A.M.
Sabbath Service—8:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 13
Morning Service—9:30 A.M.
Junior Congregation Service—10:30 A.M.
Coterie Chanukah Dance—8 P.M.

Sunday, December 14
Sunday School Classes—9:45 A.M.

Monday, December 15
Red Cross Group—10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
Choral Group—8 P.M.

Tuesday, December 16
First Aid Class—11 A.M.

Wednesday, December 17
Women's Hebrew Class—11 A.M.

Friday, December 19
First Aid Class—11 A.M.
Sabbath Service—8:30 PM.

Saturday, December 20
Morning Service—9:30 A.M.
Junior Congregation Service—10:30 A.M.

Sunday, December 21
Sunday School Chanukah performance.
Coterie Meeting—2:30 P.M.

Monday, December 22
Red Cross Group—10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

RABBI STEINBERG LECTURES

Rabbi Steinberg has just completed a series of three lectures under the auspices of the Institute of Interdenominational Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary. The theme of his course was "Jewish Ethic." His lectures were presented before a group of 75 men and women, comprised in the main of Christian clergymen and rabbis.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE EVOKES MUCH PRAISE

On November 20, the morning of Thanksgiving, our congregation united with the Society for the Advancement of Judaism in a joint Thanksgiving service which was conducted at the S.A.J. The service was read by Rabbi Ira Eisenstein, assisted by the Choral Group of that congregation. Rabbi Steinberg delivered the message. Those who participated in the period of worship and instruction were one and all touched by the simple dignity, the devotion and the sincerity which marked the service throughout. Rabbi Steinberg has received numerous messages of appreciation from members of our congregation who participated in worship and who expressed their gratification over the inspiration which it afforded them. The Scroll communicates this information so that those who read it may be prepared in spirit for the next call to Thanksgiving worship in the year which lies ahead.

CLUB NOTES

By Susan Peiper

The Council for the Coteries and Junior League of 1941-42, composed of a few members from each club, had its first meeting on Sunday, November 15. The officers elected were: Louis Zeller, President; Janice Neuman, Recording Secretary; and Susan Peiper, Corresponding Secretary.

Plans for a Chanukah Dance sponsored by the three Coteries to be held on Dec. 13 were discussed.

It was decided that a lecture course would be held by the Clubs, beginning on December 21. It was also decided to intersperse this course with occasional debates and forums.

Anyone who wishes to become a member of a club can do so by corresponding with the Synagogue or some member of a club. Always include full data including name, address and age.

MARVIN LOWENTHAL SPEAKS

The Yorkville Zionist District, the membership of which so largely overlaps the membership of our congregation, is conducting a brilliant forum on Jewish problems at the Young Men's Hebrew Association. On Tuesday evening, December 9, at 8:30, Mr. Marvin Lowenthal, author of "A World Passed By" and "The Jews of Germany" and noted lecturer, will speak before the Yorkville District and its friends on "Jews at the Crossroads." Mr. Lowenthal is well worth hearing. Admission to the lecture is free. The Scroll urges its readers to avail themselves of this opportunity to hear a distinguished scholar, author and lecturer on a theme of such vital significance.

ADULT CLASSES CLOSE WITH DEC. 15 MEETING

The classes under the auspices of the Committee on Adult Education of the Park Avenue Synagogue will terminate a very successful fall semester on the evening of December 15. All classes will meet at the regular hours: the Hebrew Class from 7 to 8; the Choral Group, the Seminars on "Problems of the Religious Life" and "What Is in the Prayer Book" from 8 to 9; the major lecture course from 9 to 10. The theme of the major lecture course is that of "The Cooperative vs. Competitive Principles."

Since December 15 is the night of the second candle of Chanukah appropriate cognizance of the Chanukah festival will be taken.

With this meeting the Adult Classes suspend activities until the Monday evening of January 19 when a four week Institute on "The Aesthetics of Jewish Living" will be inaugurated. Participating in this Institute will be Dr. Meyer Schapiro (Modern Jewish Art), Dr. Rachel Wischnitzer (Jewish Art, Ancient and Medieval), Cantor David Putterman and Mrs. Judith Eisenstein (Jewish Music) and Miss Corinne Chochem (the Jewish Dance).

A SPECIAL MESSAGE

Among the many expressions of sentiment which have come to us from various sources one of the most interesting and touching is contained in a letter sent to Rabbi Steinberg by Dr. Hermann Vogelstein, one of the most distinguished of the German scholars and rabbis now resident in this country. The text of that letter is so significant that The Scroll reprints it:

"In these days the Park Avenue Synagogue Congregation celebrates its Sixtieth Anniversary. I cordially congratulate you and your congregation on this important occasion.

I gratefully remember your attitude and that of your congregation toward the refugees from our destroyed German Jewry, and particularly I gratefully remember the religious services that I and my family attended in the Park Avenue Synagogue when we were living in the neighborhood of your congregation.

Coming from Europe out of old and important Jewish communities and deeply grieved over the destruction of so flourishing a Jewish life I feel in some degree consoled when looking at the Jewish congregations of this country. Since more than two thousand years Jewish fate is destruction in one and reconstruction in another country. So we hope and feel confident that He Who keepeth Israel will keep His people in the new world. All of the congregations here are young ones compared with our old European Jewries. Their very history will be in days to come. However, their development up to now is significant. So, I feel with you and with the members of your congregation satisfaction and the pride of the development during these sixty years, and I hope and I wish that in years and decades to come your congregation under your religious leadership may increasingly develop as an important source of Jewish religious feeling and work."

CHANUKAH GIFTS

Rabbi Erwin Zimet wishes to call attention to the fact that the religious school of the Synagogue is very anxious to increase its library and supply of games available for its students. He urges that all Scroll readers give, in the spirit of Chanukah, whatever books and games they have available. All such gifts will be very much appreciated and should be forwarded directly to him.

ANNIVERSARY CYCLE

The Park Avenue Synagogue during November celebrated the Sixtieth Anniversary of its founding. On the four Friday evenings of November a succession of distinguished messages were delivered to the large audience of worshipers. Lieutenant Governor Charles Poletti spoke on "Organized Religion and the Democratic Community," Professor Louis Finkelstein on "The Synagogue and the Jewish Community," Rabbi Steinberg on "The Jewish Situation, Then and Now," and some leaders of synagogue activities evaluated, in a symposium, the present status and future tendencies of their endeavors. Participants in the symposium were Mr. Frederick Finn, Mrs. Fred Abrams, Dr. Louis L. Shapiro, Rabbi Erwin Zimet, Mr. Dudley Greenstein, Mr. Robert Barzilay and Rabbi Milton Steinberg.

Successful Banquet-Dance

Much favorable comment has been evoked by the special leaflets of Reading, Meditation, and Response prepared for each of the four services. The themes of these leaflets were: "The Faiths We Affirm," "Our Heritage of Torah," Our Indebtedness to the Part," and "The Unfinished Task." Copies of these leaflets to serve as souvenirs and for private perusal can be procured at the Synagogue office.

The entire cycle was closed with a Banquet and Dance at the Hotel Plaza on Sunday evening, November 30. A large attendance of members and friends of the Synagogue and a gay musical program contributed to the pleasures of the evening. The Scroll wishes to express its appreciation to all those who made the entire cycle possible.

SCHOOL NEWS

The fine spirit and the enthusiasm shown by our children for religious school activities is to be greatly commended. One of these activities was our part in the observance of Jewish Flag Day, a money raising activity for the Jewish National Fund. The result, while not yet complete, shows signs of a huge success—the $100 given last year to the Jewish National Fund may be topped.

The good work of our school found recognition at a Keren Ami Council meeting of the Jewish schools in Manhattan, at which occasion one of our delegates, Dolores Cohen, of Class 7Y was elected Vice-Chairman of the Council. An incentive for our efforts was the movie performance given on November 30, depicting the adventures of a Palestinian boy. This very instructive and exciting picture was received with great enthusiasm.

Chanukah Preparations

The preparations for Chanukah, in all classes, are in full swing. Some classes are learning to mold menorahs out of clay, others are preparing their parts in the Chanukah performance which will take place on December 21 and will be under the theme "Our Fight for Freedom through the Ages." Class parties will again be held during the Chanukah days. Every family with children in our school will be given a box of Chanukah candles. This gift from the Sisterhood will help to stimulate the observance of Chanukah in the home.

SISTERHOOD FLASHES

The Executive Board of Sisterhood held a surprise luncheon in honor of Ruth Abrams, President, on the eve of her departure for an extended trip. The luncheon was held at the Park Royal Hotel and was a tribute to the deep affection felt for the out-going President.

At the last open meeting of Sisterhood the second of the series of lectures on Civilian Defense was given. Mr. Louis Klein of the Fire Department outlined the system of auxiliary fire forces manned by civilians after a short period of training. Mr. Klein also explained how incendiary bombs and explosives were used by enemy forces and the methods adopted for fighting or controlling such bombs. A period of questions followed. Refreshments were served as a sociable conclusion to the afternoon.

For your date book: Sisterhood open meeting on Tuesday afternoon, December 23rd.

1. Mrs. Frances Foley Gannon, Director of Consumers Service Bureau of the Department of Markets, will speak on the consumer's food problem relating to purchasing, planning and distribution in times of emergency.

The Nominating Committee will present the slate of new officers to be elected.

2. Tuesday afternoon, January 20th — Home Crafter's Guild Luncheon—when you receive more than you give. Admission $1.00 —for a good lunch and a large bag of standard groceries.

TEMPLE TID-BITS

By FAY P. WIENER

ANOTHER FORM OF SABBATH WORSHIP: Our Park Avenue Synagoguers experienced the trill of a lifetime as they humbly paid homage to *Jan Peerce* when he unveiled his swell technique last Sabbath at his Metropolitan debut. Rabbi Steinberg and Cantor Putterman were also on hand after footing it all the way downtown . . . THEY CHOSE FOR THE BENCH A WONDERFUL MENCH: Governor Lehman is to be congratulated for his judicious appointment of *Bernard Botein* to the Supreme Court. Sara's little boy Bernie now joins the P.A.S. Honor fraternity, which includes Justices *Isidore Wasservogel* and *Albert Cohn* . . . THINGS WE DIDN'T KNOW TILL NOW: That the interesting and informative mag, *"Home and Food"*, distributed by independent grocers is edited and published by Flora Sands Carlan, pseudonym of our *Mrs. D. Leonard Cohen,* who has just been made a member of the Federal Nutrition Committee. The Daily News is now preparing a movie short based on one of Mrs. Cohen's articles. "Women's Work is Never Done" . . . WE SEE BY THE PAPERS: That *Fred J. Zeitz* has again presented the Pach collection of portraits of U. S. Presidents, this time to numerous high schools throughout the city . . . QUOTABLE QUOTES: *Susan Peiper's* critical comment on a joke she didn't enjoy: "Daddy, that's positively natziating . . . *Mrs. Sidney Liebowitz* making an appointment to meet someone at the Public Library, "in front of the left paw of the uptown lion" . . . *Dr. Harold Bauer's* letter to Harold Bauer, the famous pianist, whose mail he has been receiving, "I don't object to getting your mail, but I draw the line when it comes to bills" . . . *Jacob Friedman's* legitimate excuse for intruding at the Sisterhood Executive Board Luncheon tendered to *Ruth Abrams,* "Years ago I was made an Honorary Sister" . . . HATS OFF: to *Billy Putterman* who made his Bar Mitzvah a ceremony of loveliness we'll never forget. Cantor Putterman had better watch his step 'cause we've got someone to fill his shoes and equal his musical feats . . . To *Milton Weill,* for his Bar Mitzvah skit so chockful of wit . . . What this Synagogue needs is a Varsity Show written by Milton We hereby guarantee to sell every ticket printed . . . WELCOME HOME: To *Mrs. Jacob Friedman, Jr.* . . . BON VOYAGE: To the *Fred* and *Herbert Abrams* . . . GET WELL QUICK WISHES: To *Jules Haft* and *Mrs. Joseph I. Lubin* . . . CONDOLENCES OF THE CONGREGATION: To the families of *Dr. William Lustig, Mrs. Carrie Weil, Mrs. Josephine Waldeck* and *Prof. Frank Mankiewicz* on their demise.